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The floor and roof are formed of large flat stones; the latter being supported by twenty-nine upright stones, nearly all of which are covered with incised ornamentations, composed chiefly of segments of concentric circles, interspersed with waved lines, and resembling somewhat the Northumbrian rock-inscriptions, and those of the tumulus at New Grange, Ireland.

Some rubbings of parts of these inscriptions were exhibited by Mr. Lewis, and some specimens of antique-looking vessels of pottery-ware, which he had purchased in the market-place at Reunes, and which, he said, varying in size according to requirement, were in common use in Brittany at the present day.

The thanks of the Society having been given to Mr. Lewis, the President called upon Dr. Hunt to read his paper, but suggested that he should read only such portions of it as related to the specimens and drawings before the meeting, as otherwise there would hardly be time to discuss all the papers.

Dr. HUNT said, as his paper would take some while to read, he would briefly describe the drawings exhibited; for it was only due to the Chairman that sufficient time should be left for the discussion of his (Dr. Beddoe's) paper.

Abstract.

4. "On Carnac, in Brittany," by Dr. James Hunt, F.S.A. The author explained the results of an investigation on the plan of this monument, and exhibited a series of drawings representing its present state. He controverted the statement of Sir John Lubbock, that Avebury and Stonehenge were the two largest monuments of their class in Europe; contending that Carnac was by far the largest monument of the kind in Europe, and that it differs in many respects from Stonehenge; and that there was no justification for the opinion advanced by Sir John Lubbock, that those monuments—allied to that of Carnac, like Avebury—belonged to the same period as that which produced Stonehenge.

The monument consisted of eleven rows of stones, of very different sizes, of which about 4,000 now remained, but which, in the opinion of many Archaic Anthropologists, had originally consisted of 10,000. It extended probably as far as Locmariaker; for on the other side of a small piece of water, where it appeared to terminate, similar cromlechs and remains had been traced. The stones travelled in a serpentine fashion, and cromlechs were found on both sides of them, and with such regularity that, in proceeding along the line of stones, it was a matter of certainty in which direction the next cromlech would be, and though not always clearly discernible, a little excavation would have rendered it so. The plan shown was based upon the admittedly imperfect one of Mr. Bathurst Deane's, made in 1832, which he had been able to improve and amplify. He hoped the Anthropological Society of Paris would take the matter up, but at the present moment Englishmen could boast of having the best ground plan of Carnac yet made. It was notable that Carnac consisted of eleven rows of stones; while all the English monuments of similar character were composed of only two such rows: and with the exception of

those in Devon, they all took a bend, which had given rise to the opinion, correct or incorrect, that they indicated serpent worship. When he considered the gigantic proportions of many of the stones at Carnac, the large tract of country over which they extended, and that the people who had placed them there, and who, by the very nature, extent, and difficulty of the work, evidently could not have been barbarians; he was struck with wonderment at the spectacle, it was so grand and so sublime. He hoped that, ere long, a correct ground-plan would be made; but in the meantime that those exhibited would be published; for the monument at Carnac was, in his opinion, far larger and more beautiful than any of the same character in any other part of the world.

The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Hunt, in the name of the meeting, and remarked, that it was a strange thing that the French should have almost entirely neglected so grand an ancient monument. No such drawings of Carnac and Locmariaker, as those now exhibited by Dr. Hunt, had, he believed, been made before; and he called upon the members to discuss the papers which had been read on the subject.

Dr. HUNT said, as he had been in Brittany, he could testify to the value and correctness of the photographs of the people, one of which was exactly typical of the natives with whom he had associated during his investigations. While agreeing with the President on that point, he quite differed as to his estimate of the proportion of unsoundness among that people. He had found that disease of all sorts abounded, that deformity was very common, and that particularly about Carnac they were in a very unhealthy state. There appeared to be two distinct types of men living in Brittany; but he noticed a great many different types among those attending the fair at Vannes, which variety occurred, probably, from the large number of persons who came long distances on that occasion. The President's paper was of great value, as contributing to determine the race and types of man in that interesting district. They seemed to have a great horror of enlistment; and he should like to know if the President had remarked any want of sympathy, on the part of the population, towards the government of the nation that would account for that feeling, which was the more remarkable, as their immediate neighbours were so martial a people. At any rate, so strong a dislike to military service was an important characteristic.

Dr. NICHOLAS said, that as he had been several times in Brittany, and had studied the people and the country, he had no hesitation in saying that he knew no district, within easy reach, so deeply interesting, so new, and so overwhelming in the extent of its ancient monuments. The ecclesiastical monuments were particularly instructive from their elaborate nature and architectural peculiarities, and as records of the piety of the old Bretons. At the present day, in no part of France did the people display so much of the spirit of religion. On weekdays, you scarcely ever entered a church but you saw men as well as women at their devotions. On Sundays, they flocked in crowds to their places of worship with an enthusiasm that was quite remark-